

Minister  
of Agriculture and  
Agri-Food



Ministre  
de l'Agriculture et de  
l'Agroalimentaire

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0C5

AVR 12 2018  
APR

Quote: 238470

Mr. Chad MacPherson  
General Manager  
Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association  
Box 4752  
Regina SK S4P 3Y4

Dear Mr. MacPherson:

Thank you for your email and the attached resolutions from the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association's semi-annual meeting. I appreciate being made aware of issues that are top of mind for the cattle industry and have provided responses to the applicable resolutions from your meeting below.

With respect to Resolution 1, the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation proposed to add a spot-loss fire feature to the Forage Rainfall Insurance Program on native and tame grazing acres in 2018. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada reviewed this plan proposal and has provided an approval to the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation.

With respect to Resolution 2, under Part XV of the *Health of Animals Regulations* (livestock identification and traceability), the name of the person who purchased approved tags must be reported to the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA) as the administrator responsible for the cattle. This person could largely be interpreted as the owner of the animal and, therefore, support an investigation dealing with stray or stolen animals.

The name of the person who purchases approved tags is considered personal information that must be treated in accordance with the *Privacy Act*. The Act provides the authority to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to share personal information under its control with investigative bodies, such as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), listed under the *Privacy Regulations*. Therefore, the RCMP may currently request information obtained under Part XV of the *Health of Animals Regulations* either directly from the CFIA or indirectly through the CCIA. As access is permitted under the *Privacy Act*, revisions to the agreement between the CFIA and the CCIA will not affect disclosure of personal information.

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Under an agreement signed between the Government of Canada and the Government of Saskatchewan in 1893, personal information collected by the Government of Canada could be disclosed to an institution (established by or under any act of Saskatchewan) having authority to administer or enforce any law or carry out a lawful investigation. You may wish to seek confirmation with the Government of Saskatchewan's Livestock Development Unit on whether or not a provincial institution would have such authority.

With respect to Resolution 3, you may be aware that federal and provincial ministers of agriculture have agreed to renew the Western Livestock Price Insurance Program (WLPIP) for another five years, from April 1, 2018, to March 31, 2023. Prior to negotiating the renewal, federal and provincial governments engaged PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC) to conduct a feasibility review of the pilot program. The review concluded that WLPIP is a feasible and unique program that is self-sustainable, actuarially sound, and highly valued by producers, particularly in the cow-calf sector.

To ensure continued uptake and long-term viability, the review recommended investments in technology and resources. Some of the improvements identified for consideration include enhancements to the online portal that would enable access on mobile devices, payment on account functions, and overall improved usability for producers. In response to the key findings and recommendations raised by PwC, governments are developing a plan to define key actions, responsibilities, and timelines to further strengthen WLPIP over the next five years.

With respect to Resolution 4, I recognize that the 2017 wildfires were devastating to Saskatchewan livestock producers. A comprehensive suite of business risk management programs is in place to provide significant assistance to producers who are experiencing financial challenges, including those related to disaster events such as wildfires. These programs include AgriInsurance, AgriStability, and AgriInvest, which are the primary tools to help producers deal with income and production losses as well as increased costs. I would encourage any affected producers to take advantage of any assistance available through these programs.

I would also like to highlight that the designated regions for the 2017 livestock tax deferral have been announced, which include regions impacted by wildfires in Saskatchewan. I am aware that the fires have created forage shortages that may result in some livestock producers being forced to sell some of their breeding stock. Under the tax deferral provisions, producers will be eligible for a one-year tax deferral on part of the income from those forced sales. In that next year, the deferred income can be offset by the purchase of replacement animals, thereby reducing the tax implications of the original sale.

With respect to the AgriRecovery Framework, while the Province has not requested a formal assessment under the Framework, federal and provincial officials have been monitoring the situation and the assistance available to producers. This will continue into the spring, as the longer-term impacts on the native grass are better understood. If the Province determines that a formal assessment under AgriRecovery is required at any point, federal officials will work with them to complete it in a timely manner. Please be assured that the federal government is committed to ensuring producers have the tools they need to manage the risks they face.

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lawrence MacAulay". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L" and "M".

Lawrence MacAulay, PC, MP